

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14 - 36 are pending. Claims 14, 18, 22, 23, and 29 have been amended. Claims 32 - 36 have been appended.

Claims 14 - 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Amano, U.S. Patent No. 5,371,437.

Claims 14 - 21 and 23 - 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Yutaka, Japanese Patent No. 2000-038166.

The Present Invention

The present invention is directed to a plasma display panel. The panel comprises a first electrode and a second electrode between which is disposed a barrier plate, thus defining a cell in the panel. Aspects of the invention, as recited in independent claim 14 for example, include “a barrier plate having a metal electrode [which is] disposed between said first substrate and said second substrate.” The metal electrode has “a projection that is only a portion of said metal electrode which projects into said region of space in a plane approximately parallel to a plane of said plasma display panel.”

A further aspect of the invention, as recited in dependent claim 15 for example, is “said projection of said metal electrode is formed at a position where said metal electrode overlies said first electrode.” Independent claim 18 similarly recites “said metal electrode having a projecting portion at a position where said metal electrode crosses over said first electrode.”

Still another aspect of the invention is recited in independent claim 32, wherein “said metal electrode has a concave portion that projects away from said cell in a plane parallel to a plane of said panel.”

These aspects of the invention result in the unexpected effect of lowering the drive voltage thus decreasing power consumption for display discharge, and improves luminous efficiency and luminance level.

The Section 102 Rejection Based on the Amano Reference

Amano shows in Fig. 3 a cross-sectional view of a plasma display panel. The figure shows a transparent full electrode 17 disposed on the front glass plate 1 which establishes discharge spaces between it and the address electrodes 22, 23 of the rear glass panel 6 through a plurality of apertures and a plurality of aperture metal electrode plate 20 having apertures which are opposed to the transparent full electrode 17. *Col. 1, lines 53 - 60.*

As recited in claim 14, Applicant claims a metal electrode wherein “a projection that is only a portion of said metal electrode . . . projects into said region of space in a plane approximately parallel to a plane of said plasma display panel.” Amano does not show “a projection that is only a portion of said metal electrode.” Amano’s electrode plate 20 defines an aperture, and as can be seen in cross-sectional view of Fig. 3, no portion of the metal electrode plate protrudes into the aperture.

Furthermore, Amano does not show a metal electrode having “a concave portion that projects away from said cell in a plane parallel to a plane of said panel.”

Claim 32. See also claims 33 - 36.

The Section 102 rejection of the claims based on Amano is therefore believed to be overcome.

The Section 102 Reference Based on the Yutaka Reference

The cited Yutaka reference merely discloses the fundamental principles of the driving system used in the present invention. It does not show “said metal electrode having a projecting portion at a position where said metal electrode crosses over said first electrode, said projection being directed toward said cell in a plane approximately parallel to said plasma display panel.” *Claim 18.*

The cited Yutaka reference does not show the aspect of the invention as recited in claims 32 - 36. For example, the cited Yutaka reference does not show “said metal electrode has a concave portion that projects away from said cell in a plane parallel to a plane of said panel.” *Claim 32.*

Appl. No. 10/084,793
Amdt. sent December 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

PATENT

CONCLUSION

All claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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